

November 21, 2016

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT

Updated Council Eastside Rail Corridor interest statement.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/A

STAFF CONTACTS

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Parks & Community Services

POLICY CONSIDERATION

The Council adopted an Interest Statement on the Eastside Rail Corridor (ERC) on July 22, 2013 that recognizes the unique quality of this corridor and its potential to serve multiple uses. Completion of the first mile of the Eastside Rail Corridor from the Kirkland border to the SR 520 Trail is also a 2016-2017 Council priority.

The Comprehensive Plan includes the following policies concerning the Eastside Rail Corridor:

- TR-112: Recognize the potential transportation and recreation uses under consideration for the Eastside Rail Corridor when considering public and private improvements adjacent to and across the corridor and preserve the opportunity for future multi-modal transportation use and access.
- TR-113: Promote and support the design, development and use of the Eastside Rail Corridor as a regional multimodal facility.
- TR-114: Provide for multi-modal transportation use and access when considering public and private projects adjacent to and across the Eastside Rail Corridor.
- PA-4: Connect Bellevue's parks and trails to the regional system of nearby state, King County and neighboring city parks, greenways, trails and facilities.
- PA-13: Collaborate with King County, Sound Transit and neighboring jurisdictions in the planning and development of the regional Eastside Rail Corridor trail system.

BACKGROUND

The Eastside Rail Corridor (ERC) is part of a 42-mile rail line that was previously owned by Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Company. The ERC extends from Renton north to Snohomish County, passing through Bellevue, Kirkland, Woodinville and portions of unincorporated King County. It also includes a spur (called the Redmond Spur) that extends 7-plus miles from Woodinville south to

Redmond. King County owns segments of the corridor and holds a trail easement along segments that are owned by others. Redmond, Kirkland and Woodinville also own segments of the corridor. Sound Transit owns a 1.1 mile segment of the corridor in Bellevue and holds an easement for transit along other segments; and Puget Sound Energy also holds an easement for utility use along the corridor.

Although the City of Bellevue is not an ERC owner, it is the permitting authority for the segment that passes within the City limits, and it has a keen interest in the development of a high quality, multi-use trail for broad public use along the corridor. The Council adopted an ERC Interest Statement in July 2013. Since that time, the planning for a multi-use trail along the ERC has advanced significantly, with completion of a King County ERC Trail Master Plan in July 2016 and development of trail segments in Redmond and Kirkland.

As the trail project moves from the planning phase into the implementation phase, the timing is opportune to revisit Bellevue's interests in the corridor to ensure the City continues to remain highly engaged in the development of the ERC. Staff prepared a draft revised interest statement for Council consideration at the October 24, 2016 ERC study session. Council provided staff with several additional edits to the statement at the same meeting, which have been included in a new draft in track changes (Attachment 1). Council is tonight being asked to consider approving a final revised November 21, 2016 ERC Council Interest Statement (Attachment 2).

EFFECTIVE DATE

If approved, this Motion becomes effective immediately upon Council adoption.

OPTIONS

1. Approve the November 21, 2016 ERC Council Interest Statement.
2. Do not approve the November 21, 2016 ERC Council Interest Statement.

RECOMMENDATION

Option 1

MOTION

Move to adopt the November 21, 2016 ERC Council Interest Statement.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 - November 21, 2016 Council ERC Interest Statement (track changes)
- 2 - November 21, 2016 Council ERC Interest Statement (clean)

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL DOCUMENT LIBRARY

October 24, 2016 Eastside Rail Corridor Update Agenda Memo
October 24, 2016 draft revised ERC Council Interest Statement
July 22, 2016 ERC Council Interest Statement